

Application No.: 10,635,424

Docket No.: JCLA11962

REMARKS**I. Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, Collier, IV et al. (US 5,260,126), and rejected claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Collier IV et al. in view of Romanek (US 4,446,189).

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 and 4 are amended. Claim 1 is further defined in the scope of the invention by incorporating a limitation that "an average diameter (Ad) of said nonelastomeric fiber and an average diameter (Bd) of said long elastomeric fiber are in a relation of $Bd/Ad \geq 25/18$," support of which can be found, for example, in Specification, Example 26 described at pages 35-36 and in Table 3. Claim 4 is also amended as a consequence of the amendment of claim 1. Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter. Thus, reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, Collier, IV et al. (US 5,260,126), and rejected claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Collier IV et al. in view of

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Romanek (US 4,446,189). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as applied to the amended claims for at least the reasons set forth below.

The present invention provides an elastic nonwoven fabric and fabric products manufactured therefrom. The independent claim 1, as amended, recites that the elastic nonwoven fabric containing a long elastomeric fiber and a nonelastomeric fiber wherein the average diameter (Ad) of the nonelastomeric fiber and the average diameter (Bd) of the long elastomeric fiber are in a relation of $Bd/Ad \geq 25/18$. On the other hand, claim 5 provides a laminated elastic nonwoven fabric manufactured by laminating a nonwoven fabric different from one according to claim 1 to an elastic nonwoven fabric according to claim 1.

Collier, IV et al., however, do not disclose the foregoing limitation of " $Bd/Ad \geq 25/18$ " recited in the amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 6 are not anticipated by Collier, IV et al., since Collier, IV et al. do not disclose each and every element of the claims.

Further, since Collier, IV et al. or Romanek does not make any suggestion on modification of the prior art teaching by introducing the foregoing limitation, Collier, IV et al., either alone or in combination with Romanek, does not render claims 1-7 obvious.

Therefore, the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds of rejection have been addressed and the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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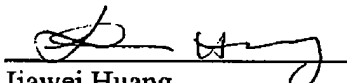
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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